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ABSTRACT

Parents of Illinois eighth graders were surveyed to determine their knowledge about college admission requirements, costs, their plans to meet those costs, and their knowledge of financial aid in planning for their child's education beyond high school. Parents surveyed were from 30 schools that represented the following settings: Chicago suburban, large cities downstate (Springfield), independent cities downstate, rural towns, private schools in the Springfield Diocese, and Chicago inner-city. A total of 3,474 surveys were distributed, and the response rate was 38%. Private schools had the highest response rate (56%), and Chicago schools had the lowest (23%). Findings indicated a serious lack of college planning information. Even though 64% of the surveyed parents who were planning to send their child to college expected parent savings to help pay college costs, 56% stated they had no idea how much it was going to cost. Further, of the parents surveyed, 57% had not heard of the new Illinois Board of Higher Education's admissions requirements scheduled to go into effect the fall of 1990 when their eighth graders would be ready to enter college. Findings for the 22 survey questions are presented, and the questionnaire is appended. (SW)

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PARENTS OF ILLINOIS EIGHTH GRADERS:

A SURVEY OF THEIR KNOWLEDGE ABOUT ACADEMIC AND FINANCIAL PLANNING FOR THEIR CHILD'S EDUCATION BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL

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*Author's note: The author thanks ISSC personnel Ms. Starlynn Sebring for tabulating these data, and Ms. Wilma Bryant for editing this paper.

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ABSTRACT

This paper analyzes findings from a survey of the parents of Illinois eighth graders. The survey takes a sample of these parents in six different school settings to determine the status of their knowledge about college admissions requirements, costs, how they plan to meet those costs, and their knowledge of financial aid in planning for their child's education beyond high school. Study results indicate a lack of knowledge in these areas and a strong desire on the part of these parents to obtain it.*

INTRODUCTION

The mission and goals of the Illinois State Scholarship Commission (ISSC) include the administration of student financial aid programs in Illinois as well as the responsibility to inform the public about the availability of financial aid to help finance college attendance costs. To this end, the ISSC disseminates student aid information to prospective aid applicants. Various means of informing these publics have been implemented, including use of brochures, news releases, audio/visual productions, public service announcements, statewide training seminars, etc. Since resources are limited, the ISSC must maximize these programs' effectiveness in order to reach as many prospectiv college students and aid applicants as possible.

*Appendix C contains data from a telephone survey assessing research conducted and brochures developed by other states on this topic.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education's fall of 1985 decision to expand requirements for admission to public universities and community colleges places increased responsibility for college planning on the family. Therefore, the ISSC studied the informational needs of Illinois students and their parents as they were about to undertake high school study. This analysis surveys a sample of parents of eighth grade students in six different school settings to determine their knowledge of college admissions requirements and costs, plans for meeting those costs, and their knowledge of financial aid resources in their planning. The six settings used by the State Board of Education are:

Chicago suburban
large cities downstate (Springfield)
independent cities downstate
rural towns
private
Chicago inner-city

METHODOLOGY

The survey was designed jointly by ISSC staff and the ISSC's ad hoc advisory committee. Final survey modifications were made after a pilot test was conducted in the Brown County and Pleasant Plains school districts in January of 1986. The survey instrument is Appendix A.

The State Board of Education (SBE) assisted the ISSC in establishing sampling sectors. From data SBE provided, schools were selected for the Chicago suburban, large cities downstate, independent cities and rural towns sectors. The superintendent of schools in the Springfield diocese assisted in determining schools for the private sector. Chicago Public Schools, Bureau of Guidance Programs and Services assisted with choosing Chicago schools.

The following thirty schools were chosen to survey:

Chicago Suburban: Downers Grove
1. Herrick Junior High
2. O'Neill Junior High

Large Cities Downstate: Springfield
3. Benjamin Franklin Middle school
4. U.S. Grant Middle school
5. Washington Middle school

Independent Cities Downstate:
6. Casey Junior High - Mount Vernon
7. Marion Junior High - Marion
8. Creal Springs Elementary sch ol- Creal Springs

Rural Towns:
9. Hillsboro Junior High - Hillsboro
10. Southwestern Junior High school - Piasa
11. Illini Junior High - Jerseyville

Private: City of Springfield Area Diocese

12. Christ the King
13. Saint Agnes
14. Blessed Sacrament
15. Cathedral
16. Saint Aloysius
17. Saint Patrick
18. Sacred Heart
19. Little Flower
20. Saint Joseph
21. Saint Frances Cabrini
22. Saint Mary's (New Berlin)

Chicago Inner City:

23. Hanson Park
24. Josephine C. Locke
25. William E. Gladstone
26. George Gershwin
27. Gerald Delgado Kanoon, Magnet school
28. John M. Gregory
29. Lawndale Community Academy
30. Walter J. Dyett Middle school

A list of these schools and their response rates can be found in TABLE 1. A total of 3,474 surveys were distributed. For ease of data entry, sectors were color-coded.

After contacting superintendents and principals for proper clearance, surveys were distributed to the schools February 28, 1986, through March 7, 1986. Eighth grade teachers were given a letter explaining the survey and urging them to tell their students to take it home for parents to complete. The packet (see Appendix A) given to each eighth grader contained the survey, a letter to the parents, and a self-addressed, stamped return envelope. Three to five days after survey distribution, teachers distributed another envelope for the students to take home to their parents. This envelope contained a follow-up letter to the parents and a postcard. The follow-up letter prompted parents to complete the survey and return the postcard to the Commission, complete with their name and address. It also explained that results of the study would be sent to all parents returning a postcard.

FINDINGS

The overall response rate was 38% (TABLE 1). Private schools were highest with 56%. Chicago schools were lowest at 23%. Although data presented here are not statistically representative of all Illinois parents of eighth graders, they do serve as strong indicators of these parents' information deficiencies and needs.

TABLE 1
NAME OF SCHOOLS SURVEYED AND RESPONSE RATES

	8th Grade Enrollment	# Surveys Returned	Response Rate
Chicago Suburban: Downers Grove			
1. Herrick Junior High	172	79	46%
2. O'Neill Junior High	230	120	52%
Total for Sector:	402	199	50%
Large Cities Downstate: Springfield			
3. Benjamin Franklin Middle School	347	87	25%
4. U.S. Grant Middle School	315	129	41%
5. Washington Middle School	330	95	29%
Total for Sector:	992	311	31%
Independent Cities Downstate:			
6. Casey Junior High - Mount Vernon	245	76	31%
7. Marion Junior High - Marion	313	157	50%
8. Creal Springs Elem. School - Creal Springs	32	16	73%
Total for Sector:	580	249	43%
Rural Towns:			
9. Hillsboro Junior High - Hillsboro	149	58	39%
10. Southwestern Junior High - Piasa	154	69	45%
11. Illini Junior High - Jerseyville	236	93	39%
Total for Sector:	539	220	41%
Private: City of Springfield Area Diocese			
12. Christ the King	54	36	67%
13. Saint Agnes	36	19	53%
14. Blessed Sacrament	31	12	39%
15. Cathedral	11	5	45%
16. Saint Aloysius	43	27	63%
17. Saint Patrick	15	9	60%
18. Sacred Heart	11	4	36%
19. Little Flower	53	27	51%
20. Saint Joseph	33	24	73%
21. Saint Frances Cabrini	27	13	48%
22. Saint Mary's (New Berlin)	13	7	54%
Total for Sector:	327	183	56%
Chicago Inner City:			
23. Hanson Park	60	10	17%
24. Josephine C. Locke	85	11	13%
25. William E. Gladstone	47	33	70%
26. George Gershwin	78	16	21%
27. Gerald Delgado Kanoon	91	12	13%
28. John M. Gregory	96	21	22%
29. Lawndale Community Academy	113	23	20%
30. Walter H. Dyett Middle School	66*	17	26%
Total for Sector:	634	143	23%
*used 66 of 280 enrollment			
Overall:	3474	1305	38%

Question 1: Is your eighth grade child a:

Fifty percent of those responding had eighth grade daughters.

Question 2: Do you expect that your eighth grade child will continue his/her education after high school?

Of those responding, 81% expected their child to continue his/her education beyond high school, and 15% were uncertain. Only 3% did not expect their child to continue his/her education beyond high school. Thus, it seems most parents returning the survey expected their child to continue his/her education. Findings may be skewed as a result. Percentages reported in this study were based on the 1,320 (38%) total respondents.

Question 3: What colleges, vocational schools, etc. do you expect to consider?
&
Question 4: If you identified at least one institution above, are you familiar with the admissions requirements for that institution?

Of those responding, 87% expected their child to consider Illinois schools. Of those considering particular institutions, only 41% were aware of its

admissions requirements. This figure varied from 49% who were familiar with admissions requirements in suburban schools to 29% familiar with these requirements in Chicago schools.

Question 5: If you answered yes to the above question, please tell us how you learned of their admissions requirements. (Check all that apply.)

If parents identified an institution their child might consider and were familiar with its admissions requirements, they were then asked how they learned about the requirements. Overall, 30% received this information from catalogs or other information supplied by the college. Twenty-two percent obtained this information from an 'other' source. These 'other' sources included: one or more relative (parent, aunt, nephew, etc.) was an alumnus of the institution or was currently attending; the parent was a faculty member or worked there in some other capacity; or the parent was a high school teacher or counselor.

In addition, 16% replied they learned of the admissions requirements by information supplied at their eighth grader's school. Another 16% answered they got this information from an older child who was enrolled there now. Only 4% said they learned of the admissions requirements at a college fair.

Question 6: Have you heard about the Illinois Board of Higher Education's new admissions requirements for public universities and community colleges? (They are scheduled to go into effect in 1990 when your eighth grader would be ready to enter college.)

Notably, 57% of the parents had not heard of these new requirements. Between 48% and 54% of those in the suburban, private, Springfield, and independent cities sectors had heard of these requirements. However, 71% of the rural school and 87% of the Chicago school parents had not heard of these new requirements.

Question 7: Have you made any decisions regarding the courses your son/daughter will take in high school?

Affirmative answers to this question ranged from 51% in the rural sector to 92% in the suburban sector. One explanation for these seemingly high responses and differences between sectors is that some eighth graders must sign up for freshman classes during the spring. Thus, parents and their children in some sectors may have already been thinking about classes for the next fall.

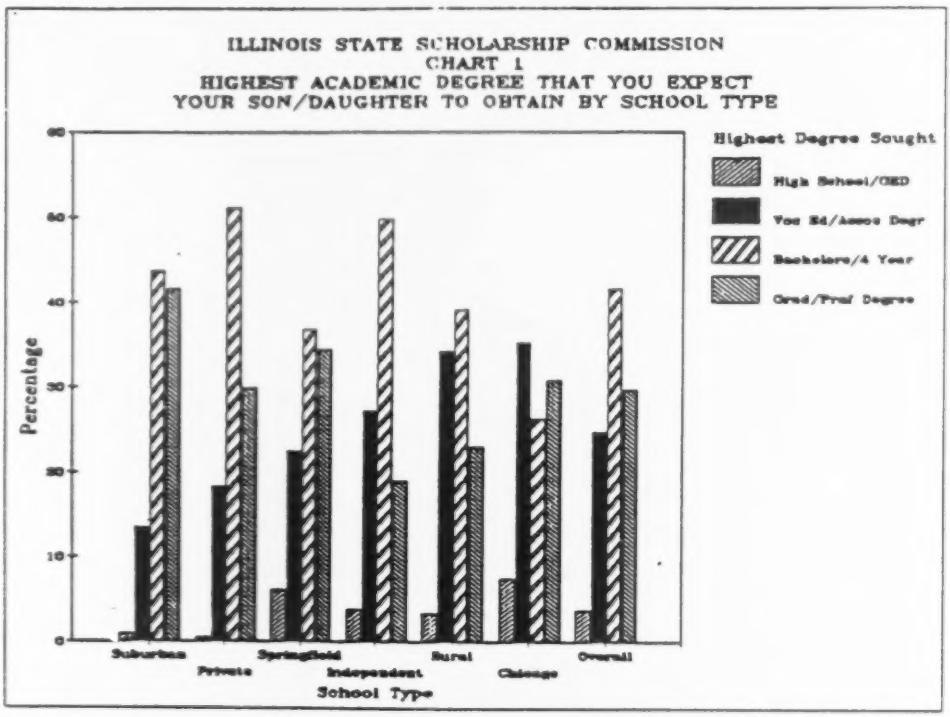
Question 8: Does your child have a chosen career area for his/her education beyond high school?

Affirmative responses ranged between 37% and 49% in 5 out of 6 sectors. In total, of those who specified a chosen career area, the medical field rated number one. Law and teaching were second and third respectively. Rated fourth was the computer field. Fifth and sixth rankings were engineering and veterinary medicine.

Sixty-nine percent of the Chicago parents answered that their child had a chosen career area. In this particular sector, the computer field was chosen most often. The study of law was second. Third and fourth rankings were the nursing and teaching fields.

Question 9: What is the highest academic degree that you expect your son/daughter to obtain? (CHART 1)

Overall, 42% expected their son/daughter to obtain a 4-year bachelor's degree. A graduate/professional degree and vocational/associate's degree were expected by 29% and 25% respectively. Four percent expected their child's highest degree to be a high school diploma or G.E.D. As stated earlier, 81% of those parents responding to the survey expected their child to continue his/her education beyond high school. This 4% figure concerning the child's highest expected academic degree is therefore not representative of all Illinois eighth graders. Responses by sector can be found in CHART 1.



Question 10: How much do you think it will cost your eighth grader to attend college in 1990 for one year?

Fifty-six percent of all the parents responded they did not know how much it would cost. Thirty-five percent of those reporting estimates stated either $5,000, $4,000 or $2,000. Nine percent estimated $10,000; 8% estimated $3,000. Other responses ranged from a low of $30 to a high of $60,000 a year.

Question 11: How do you expect these costs will be paid? (TABLE 2)

Parents who were either planning to send their child to college or who were as yet uncertain, were asked to check all sources that applied to them. Of the suburban parents, 85% felt their own savings would help pay for their child's college education. This contrasts with 35% of the Chicago sector parents who felt their personal savings would help pay for their child's college costs.

In the Springfield, independent cities, rural, and private sectors, 60% to 69% expected parental savings to help pay their child's college expenses. Loans and scholarships/grants all ranked high on parents' lists for paying college

costs. The rural sector seemed to rely most heavily on these types of assistance: 73% of the rural parents expected both loans and scholarships/grants to help pay for their child's college education. Each of the other sectors also expected to rely heavily on these two types of aid with responses ranging from 49% to 72%.

Overall, 60% expected student earnings during college would help pay college expenses. Investments, however, did not figure highly as a source for paying college expenses. The suburban sector chose investments as a means of paying for college only 19% of the time. Only 4% of the Chicago parents expected investments to help pay college costs.

TABLE 2

HOW DO YOU EXPECT THE COST OF YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION WILL BE PAID?

	Springfield	Independent	Rural	Suburban	Private	Chicago	Overall
Parents' savings	63%	65%	60%	85%	69%	35%	64%
Student's savings	38%	29%	30%	58%	46%	31%	38%
Gifts from relatives	13%	16%	9%	18%	14%	6%	13%
Student loans	63%	49%	73%	68%	65%	57%	62%
Scholarships and grants	65%	55%	73%	62%	64%	72%	65%
Student earnings (While attending college)	60%	61%	59%	64%	63%	49%	60%
Investments	14%	11%	10%	19%	13%	4%	12%
Other: (please identify)	6%	6%	3%	5%	3%	1%	4%
Do not know	11%	13%	11%	6%	4%	15%	10%

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Question 12: The following is a list of financial aid programs. Please indicate which programs you have heard about and which you plan to apply for.

Have Heard About - TABLE 3

Fewer than 25% from any sector had heard about the Policemen/Firemen Dependents Program, Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students, National Guard Scholarships, Auxiliary Loans to Assist Students, Correctional Officer's Survivor Program, National Direct Student Loans, or the Illinois Monetary Award Program (MAP). Of significance for Illinois is that only 9% of the parents had heard of MAP, a $122 million program providing grants to over 100,000 Illinois students. Notably, many people refer incorrectly to this program as the "ISSC". If the question had been reworded using this title for the Monetary Award Program, recognition may have been slightly higher.

The Illinois Guaranteed Loan Program was the most widely recognized by parents (51% of the time.) Overall, 28% of those parents planning to send their child to college had heard of Pell Grants. Twenty-six percent of those parents had heard of the College Work-Study Program.

The Merit Recognition Scholarship Program is new in Illinois, having been funded for two consecutive years. This is a $500 scholarship awarded to Illinois high school seniors who graduate in the top 5% of their class. Thirty-four percent of the suburban parents had heard of the program contrasted with 9% of the Chicago parents. Other sectors' responses as to their knowledge of this new program ranged from 15% to 21%.

Lack of knowledge about the National Merit Scholarship Program further illustrated an information gap between the suburban and Chicago sectors. Forty-eight percent of the suburban parents had heard of this program compared with 8% of the Chicago parents. Twenty-one to 33% were the ranges within the other sectors that had heard of the National Merit Scholarship Program.

TABLE 3

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS:
PLEASE INDICATE WHICH PROGRAMS YOU HAVE HEARD ABOUT

	Springfield	Independent	Rural	Suburban	Private	Chicago	Overall
Illinois Guaranteed Student Loans	53%	40%	55%	57%	53%	50%	51%
Pell Grants	27%	24%	36%	25%	31%	26%	28%
Policemen/Firemen Dependents Program	6%	4%	3%	4%	7%	6%	5%
Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students	13%	9%	11%	22%	20%	9%	14%
Illinois Monetary Award Program	11%	5%	6%	10%	12%	9%	9%
National Guard Scholarships	15%	8%	12%	8%	22%	15%	13%
College Work-Study Program	26%	24%	27%	26%	28%	22%	26%
Merit Recognition Scholarships	21%	15%	19%	34%	17%	9%	20%
Auxiliary Loans to Assist Students	5%	5%	4%	11%	8%	5%	6%
Correctional Officer's Survivor Program	3%	-	1%	1%	4%	7%	3%
National Direct Student Loans	21%	19%	20%	21%	22%	20%	21%
Natior l Merit Scholarship	33%	21%	22%	48%	33%	8%	29%
Other: (please specify below)	4%	2%	2%	5%	5%	3%	4%

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Plan to Apply - TABLE 4

The second part of Question 12 asked parents to indicate for which of these programs they planned to apply. Responses were low in all types of aid programs. Generally, 33% planned to apply for an Illinois Guaranteed Loan. Notably, only 4% of the Chicago parents planned to have their child apply for this program. Again, there was only a 23% response rate from Chicago parents. Generalizations regarding Chicago parents must, therefore, be made with caution.

Overall, only 19% planned to have their child apply for a Pell Grant. Likewise, only 16% planned to apply for College Work-Study. However, 24% of the Chicago parents planned to have their child apply for Work-Study.

TABLE 4

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS:
PLEASE INDICATE WHICH PROGRAMS YOU PLAN TO APPLY FOR

	Springfield	Independent	Rural	Suburban	Private	Chicago	Overall
Illinois Guaranteed Student Loans	36%	23%	35%	35%	34%	4%	33%
Pell Grants	16%	18%	23%	14%	21%	26%	19%
Policemen/Firemen Dependents Program	3%	3%	-	1%	3%	3%	2%
Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students	9%	8%	7%	13%	9%	13%	10%
Illinois Monetary Award Program	10%	5%	5%	8%	9%	1%	8%
National Guard Scholarships	5%	5%	4%	3%	7%	10%	5%
College Work-Study Program	17%	16%	12%	14%	13%	24%	16%
Merit Recognition Scholarships	12%	10%	11%	17%	13%	13%	12%
Auxiliary Loans to Assist Students	4%	4%	2%	8%	7%	5%	5%
Correctional Officer's Survivor Program	1%	3%	-	1%	1%	7%	2%
National Direct Student Loans	16%	11%	13%	13%	16%	16%	14%
National Merit Scholarship	18%	10%	12%	17%	18%	7%	14%
Other: (please specify below)	3%	2%	1%	3%	5%	2%	3%

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Question 13: Will this eighth grade child be your first child to attend college?

Of those parents who expected to send their child to college or who were still uncertain, 62% responded that this would be their first child attending college.

Question 14: Will there be one or more siblings attending college at the same time this eighth grade child is in attendance?

Overall, 55% of the parents who expect to send their child to college or who were as yet uncertain stated there would be no other siblings in college at the same time as their eighth grader. Reciprocally, 45% responded there would be at least one or more siblings in attendance at the same time.

Question 15: What do you expect your son or daughter to do after high school?

It is important to remember that only 44 parents (4%) responded they were not planning to send their child to college. Based on this small sample, 14 expected their child to work in an office; 12 expected their son or daughter to join the military; and 18 expected their child to work in a service occupation or factory, as an unskilled laborer, a sales clerk, a homemaker, or other.

Question 16: How certain are you that your eighth grade child will do the above?

Only 13% of these parents who indicated they were not planning to send their child to college were very certain their son or daughter would have this particular occupation after high school. Eighty-seven percent were either fairly certain or not at all certain.

Question 17: Do your son's/daughter's expectations differ from yours?

In this regard, 33% felt their expectations did not differ. Respectively, 28% and 39% believed either their expectations did differ or they were uncertain whether or not they differed.

Question 18: Your eighth grade son's/daughter's birth order is:

Of the parents responding, 34% stated this was their first child. Only 10% responded this was their only child. Twenty-nine percent answered this was their second child, and 27% stated it was their third, fourth, fifth, sixth, or later child.

Question 19: What was your approximate total family income for 1985? (TABLE 5 & CHART 2)

Overall, 16% represented each of the following categories: below $10,000, $10,000 to $19,999, and over $50,000. Eighteen percent of the parents had an annual income of $20,000 to $29,999. Thirty-three percent had an annual income of $30,000 to $49,999.

The suburban sector of Downers Grove was chosen specifically to represent a higher income bracket for surveying purposes. Therefore, it is not surprising

that 45% of these parents had an annual income of $50,000 or more. Thirty-seven percent were in the $30,000 to $49,999 range.

The highest percentage of private school parents (42%) fell in the $30,000 to $49,999 bracket. Only 3% were below $10,000. Annual incomes of Springfield public school parents were fairly well distributed. The highest percentage of them (33%) were in the $30,000 to $49,999 annual income level. All other brackets included 14% to 20% of the parents.

Independent schools had 39% of the parents at the $30,000 to $49,999 annual income level. Only 10%, however, were over $50,000.

Thirty-six percent of the parents from the rural sector had annual incomes of $30,000 to $49,999. Sixteen percent were below $10,000; only 6% were over $50,000.

Less than $10,000 in annual income was reported by 57% of the Chicago parents. Twenty-seven percent made $10,000 to $19,999. Eleven percent reported incomes ranging from $20,000 to $29,999 a year; 5% were at the $30,000 to $49,000 level; and fewer than 1% made over $50,000 a year.

A comparison of overall parents' income with the national estimated parental income of entering freshman at all institutions for fall of 1985 found that percentages within each income range are quite similar to each other. As shown in TABLE 5, the national figure is slightly higher for the $50,000 and over category and lower in the below $10,000 category. One explanation for this variance is that this research intentionally studied a lower income population. Only one sector, Chicago suburban, was chosen specifically to represent higher income parents.

TABLE 5

PARENTS' INCOME BY SECTOR

Frequency
percent
row pct
col pct

	SUB	PRIV	SPFLD	INDEP	RURAL	CHICAGO	TOTAL	NAT'L ALL INSTIT*
BELOW $10,000	4	6	46	33	35	78	202	
	.32	.48	3.71	2.66	2.82	6.29	16.28	7.3
	1.98	2.97	22.77	16.34	17.33	38.61		
	2.13	3.45	15.54	14.22	16.43	56.52		
$10,000 - $19,999	10	19	59	40	39	37	204	
	.81	1.53	4.75	3.22	3.14	2.98	16.44	13.2
	4.90	9.31	28.92	19.61	19.12	18.14		
	5.32	10.92	19.93	17.24	18.31	26.81		
$20,000 - $29,999	19	37	52	46	50	15	219	
	1.53	2.98	4.19	3.71	4.03	1.21	17.65	17.6
	8.68	16.89	23.74	21.00	22.83	6.85		
	10.11	21.26	17.57	19.83	23.47	10.87		
$30,000 - $49,999	70	73	97	90	77	7	414	
	5.64	5.88	7.82	7.25	6.20	0.56	33.36	33.5
	16.91	17.63	23.43	21.74	18.60	1.69		
	37.23	41.95	32.77	38.79	36.15	5.07		
$50,000 AND OVER	85	39	42	23	12	1	242	
	6.85	3.14	3.38	1.85	0.97	0.08	16.28	28.4
	42.08	19.31	20.79	11.39	5.94	0.50		
	45.21	22.41	14.19	9.91	5.63	0.72		
TOTAL	188	174	296	232	213	138	1241	
	15.15	14.02	23.85	18.69	17.16	11.12	100.00	100.00

*The American Freshman: National Norms for Fall 1985. Astin, Green, Korn, Schalit, December 1985, p.10. ACE, Univ. of Calif., Los Angeles.

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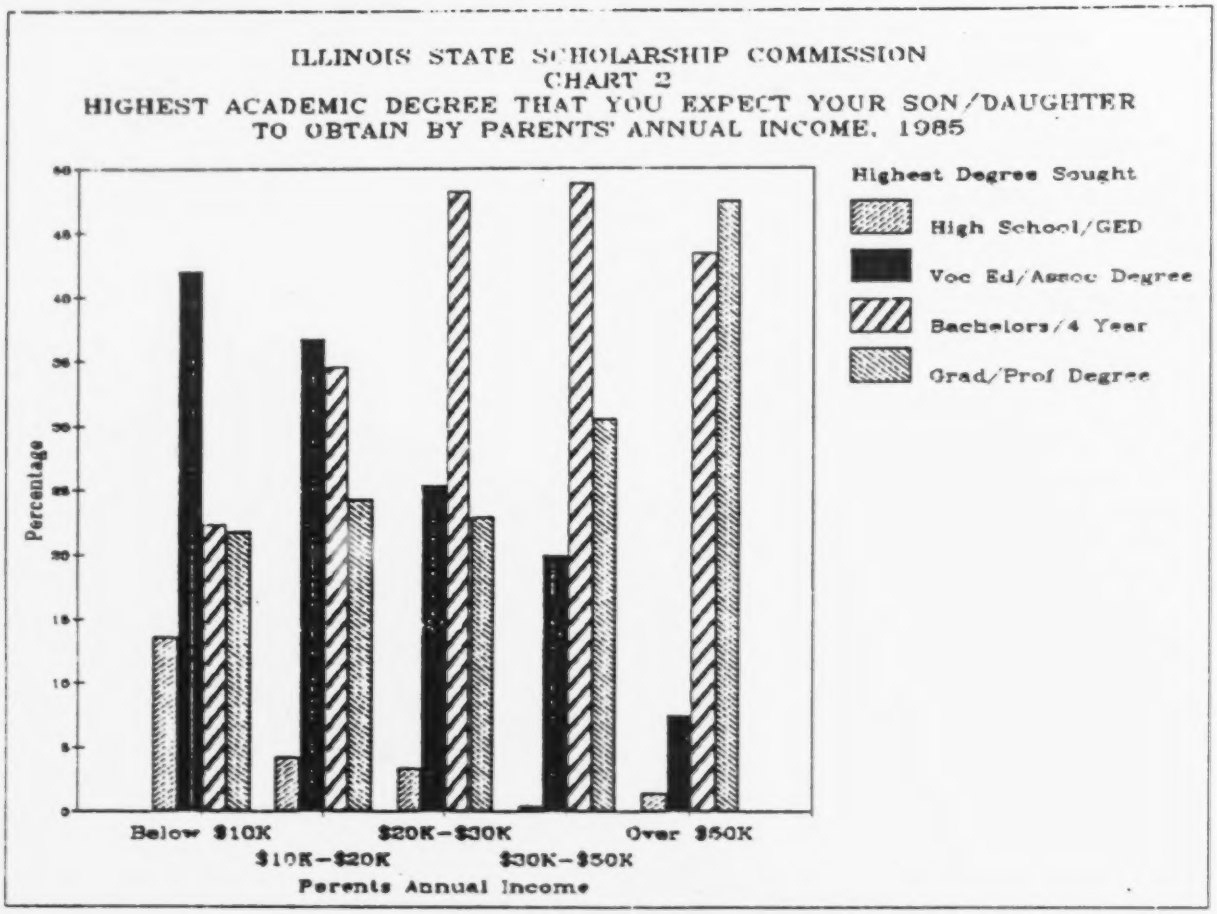

Question 20: Student's racial/ethnic background is:

In the Springfield sector, 84% of those surveyed were white. Twelve percent were black, and 3% were Asian American. Ninety-five percent of those in the independent sector were white; 4% were black. Ninety-seven percent in the rural sector were white students while 2% were American Indian. Of the suburban sector students 91% were white; 5% were Asian American; 2% were black; 1% were Hispanic; and 1% were American Indian or other. Ninety percent in the private sector were white; 5% were black; 3% were Asian American; and 1% were either Hispanic or American Indian. Only 12% of the Chicago sector students were white. Eighty percent of these Chicago students were black; 7% were Hispanic.

(TABLE 6) Cross tabulating annual income with racial/ethnic data revealed that 51% in the "Below $10,000" a year category were white; 43% were black; and 3% were American Indian. The $10,000 to $19,999 annual income category consisted of 77% white students and 21% black. Eighty-nine percent of the students were white in the $20,000 to $29,999 income level. Seven percent in this category were black. For respondents within the $30,000 to $49,999 annual income range, 94% were white; 3% were black; and 2% were Asian American. Ninety percent of the students whose parents earned over $50,000 a year were white; 3% were black; and 5% were Asian American.

TABLE 6

PARENTS' INCOME BY ETHNIC BACKGROUND

Frequency / percent / row pct / col pct	BLACK	HISPANIC	ASIAN - AMERICAN	AMERICAN INDIAN	WHITE	OTHER	TOTAL
BELOW	85	3	5	6	101	0	200
$10,000	6.94	.24	.41	.49	8.24	0.00	16.33
	42.50	1.50	2.50	3.00	50.50	0.00	
	53.46	20.00	19.23	66.67	9.97	0.00	
$10,000 -	41	3	1	1	153	0	199
$19,999	3.35	.24	.08	.08	12.49	0.00	16.24
	20.60	1.51	.50	.50	76.88	0.00	
	25.79	20.00	3.85	11.11	15.10	0.00	
$20,000 -	15	3	3	0	194	2	217
$29,999	1.22	.24	.24	0.00	15.84	.16	17.71
	6.91	1.38	1.38	0.00	89.40	.92	
	9.43	20.00	11.54	0.00	19.15	66.67	
$30,000 -	12	4	7	0	384	1	408
$49,999	.98	.33	.57	0.00	31.35	.08	33.31
	2.94	.98	1.72	0.00	94.12	.25	
	7.55	26.67	26.92	0.00	37.91	33.33	
$50,000	6	2	10	2	181	0	201
AND OVER	.49	.16	.82	.16	14.78	0.00	16.41
	2.99	1.00	4.98	1.00	90.05	0.00	
	3.77	13.33	38.46	22.22	17.87	0.00	
TOTAL	159	15	26	9	1013	3	1225
	12.98	1.22	2.12	.73	82.69	.24	100.00

6/11/86
RJD

Question 21: What is the highest level of education attained by each parent? (TABLE 7 and TABLE 8)

Overall, 12% of the fathers and 11% of the mothers surveyed had "some high school" as their highest degree obtained. A high school diploma or G.E.D. was obtained by 25% of these fathers and 31% of the mothers. A vocational school certificate or associate's degree was obtained by 31% of the fathers and 37% of the mothers. Sixteen and fourteen percent, respectively, had obtained a bachelor's degree. Finally, 16% of the fathers and 7% of the mothers surveyed had obtained a graduate/professional degree.

Extremes were noted most often between the suburban and Chicago sectors. For example, "some high school" was the highest education obtained by 4% of the suburban fathers compared with 54% of the Chicago fathers. Likewise, 31% of the suburban fathers had obtained a graduate/professional degree in comparison to 1% of the Chicago fathers. Although not as pronounced, similar differences were represented by mothers in these sectors. TABLE 7 and TABLE 8 contain these data by sector.

TABLE 7

FATHERS' HIGHEST EDUCATION OBTAINED

Frequency
col pct

	SUB	PRIV	SPFLD	INDEP	RURAL	CHICAGO	TOTAL
SOME HIGH SCHOOL	7 4%	6 3%	36 12%	24 10%	23 11%	50 54%	146 12%
HIGH SCHL/GED	26 13%	31 18%	67 23%	62 27%	86 41%	22 24%	294 25%
VOC SCHL/ASSOC	44 23%	71 40%	85 29%	88 38%	73 34%	16 17%	377 31%
BACHELORS DEGREE	56 29%	36 20%	47 16%	30 13%	17 8%	4 4%	190 16%
GRAD/PROF DEGREE	61 31%	33 19%	55 19%	28 12%	13 6%	1 1%	191 16%
TOTAL	194 100%	177 100%	290 100%	232 100%	212 100%	93 100%	1198 100%

6/13/86
RJD

TABLE 8

MOTHERS' HIGHEST EDUCATION OBTAINED

Frequency
col pct

	SUB	PRIV	SPFLD	INDEP	RURAL	CHICAGO	TOTAL
SOME HIGH SCHOOL	5 3%	6 3%	33 11%	27 11%	17 8%	48 38%	136 11%
HIGH SCHL/GED	38 20%	50 29%	95 32%	76 32%	93 43%	34 27%	386 31%
VOC SCHL/ASSOC	82 42%	71 41%	100 33%	91 38%	84 39%	37 29%	465 37%
BACHELORS DEGREE	41 21%	33 19%	51 17%	30 12%	13 6%	5 4%	173 14%
GRAD/PROF DEGREE	28 14%	15 9%	22 7%	17 7%	8 4%	3 2%	93 7%
TOTAL	194 100%	175 100%	301 100%	241 100%	215 100%	127 100%	1253 100%

6/13/86
RJD

Question 22: Please check the following areas in which additional information would be helpful for planning your child's education beyond high school. (TABLE 9)

Overall, 80% of the parents in the survey wanted to know more about financial aid. Seventy-six percent wanted more information on admissions requirements, and 73% wanted to know the chances of receiving financial assistance. Information on the cost of going to college was wanted by 75% of the parents. Career information was wanted by 64%, and graduation and job placement information was wanted by 56% of these parents.

TABLE 9

PLEASE CHECK THE FOLLOWING AREAS IN WHICH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR PLANNING YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL

	Springfield	Independent	Rural	Suburban	Private	Chicago	Overall
Admissions Requirements (required classes, ACT scores, etc.)	74%	76%	82%	81%	74%	63%	76%
Financial aid (what's available?)	81%	77%	84%	83%	81%	73%	80%
What are the chances of receiving financial assistance?	72%	70%	77%	78%	79%	61%	73%
Cost of going to school (how much will it cost?)	73%	74%	82%	78%	75%	64%	75%
Career information	63%	68%	65%	71%	57%	56%	64%
Graduation and job placement information	50%	56%	60%	59%	56%	58%	56%
Other:	4%	3%	2%	3%	3%	4%	3%

5/22/86
RJD

SUMMARY

The goal of this survey was to assess the academic and financial information needs of parents of Illinois eighth graders in planning their child's education beyond high school. Although findings presented here are not statistically representative of this Illinois population, they do reveal a serious lack of college planning information. For example, even though 64% of the surveyed parents planning to send their child to college expected parent savings to help pay college costs, 56% stated they had no idea how much it was going to cost. Further, of the parents surveyed, 57% had not heard of the new Illinois Board of Higher Education's admissions requirements scheduled to go into effect the fall of 1990 when their eighth graders would be ready to enter college.

While most respondents expected their child to continue his/her education past high school, they consistently showed a serious lack of college planning information. Survey findings, therefore, suggest that non-respondents may know even less about academic and financial planning for their child's education beyond high school.

Finally, parents of Illinois eighth graders demanded information on financial aid, admissions requirements, the cost of going to college, and the chances of receiving financial assistance. A critical need for this information was revealed throughout this study. The Commission, in its goal to effectively disseminate information to prospective aid applicants, now has guidance in targeting informational programs at junior high school students and their parents. Given proper resources, the Illinois State Scholarship Commission is challenged to begin developing these informational materials.

APPENDIX A

ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARSHIP COMMISSION
INFORMATION NEEDS: SURVEY OF ACADEMIC AND FINANCIAL PLANNING

INSTRUCTIONS: READ EACH QUESTION CAREFULLY AND CHECK (✓) THE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE.

1. Is your eighth grade child a:
   a) _____ boy
   b) _____ girl

2. Do you expect that your eighth grade child will continue his/her education after high school?
   a) _____ yes
   b) _____ uncertain
   c) _____ no

IF YOU ANSWERED YES OR UNCERTAIN, PLEASE GO ON TO QUESTION 3. IF YOU CHECKED NO, PLEASE GO TO QUESTION 15.

3. What colleges, vocational schools, etc. do you expect to consider? (List in order of preference.)
   a) Name of institution:_____ Location:_____
   b) Name of institution:_____ Location:_____
   c) Name of institution:_____ Location:_____

4. If you identified at least one institution above, are you familiar with the admissions requirements for that institution?
   a) _____ Yes
   b) _____ No (SKIP TO QUESTION 6.)
   c) _____ Did not identify institution in Question 3. (SKIP TO QUESTION 6.)

5. If you answered yes to question 4, please tell us how you learned of their admissions requirements? (Check all that apply.)
   a) _____ My son's/daughter's school provided us with information
   b) _____ College catalog/other information supplied by the college
   c) _____ Friends told us what was required
   d) _____ We have an older child enrolled there now
   e) _____ We attended a college fair
   f) _____ Other. Please identify source: _____

6. Have you heard about the Illinois Board of Higher Education's new admissions requirements for public universities and community colleges? (They are scheduled to go into effect in 1990 when your eighth grader would be ready to enter college.)
   a) _____ Yes
   b) _____ No

7. Have you made any decisions regarding the courses your son/daughter will take in high school?
   a) _____ Yes
   b) _____ No

8. Does your child have a chosen career area for his/her education beyond high school?
   a) _____ Yes (please specify) _____
   b) _____ No

(OVER)

9. What is the highest academic degree that you expect your son/daughter to obtain?
   a) _____ High school graduate or G.E.D.
   b) _____ Some college or vocational school or Associate degree
   c) _____ Bachelor's degree (4 year)
   d) _____ Graduate/Professional degree (law, medicine, etc.)

10. How much do you think it will cost your eighth grader to attend college in 1990 for one year? Please provide your best estimates.
   a) Tuition and books $_____
   b) Living costs $_____
   c) Do not know _____

11. How do you expect these costs will be paid? (Check all that apply.)
   a) _____ Parents' savings
   b) _____ Student's savings
   c) _____ Gifts from relatives
   d) _____ Student loans
   e) _____ Scholarships and grants
   f) _____ Student earnings while attending college
   g) _____ Investments
   h) _____ Other: (Please identify) _____
   i) _____ Do not know

12. The following is a list of financial aid programs. Please indicate which programs you have heard about, and which you plan to apply for.

	Have Heard About	Plan to Apply
a) Illinois Guaranteed Student Loans	_____	_____
b) Pell Grants	_____	_____
c) Policemen/Firemen Dependents Program	_____	_____
d) Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students	_____	_____
e) Illinois Monetary Award Program	_____	_____
f) National Guard Scholarships	_____	_____
g) College Work-Study Program	_____	_____
h) Merit Recognition Scholarships	_____	_____
i) Auxiliary Loans to Assist Students	_____	_____
j) Correctional Officer's Survivor Program	_____	_____
k) National Direct Student Loans	_____	_____
l) National Merit Scholarship	_____	_____
m) Other: (please specify below)		
_____ _____	_____	_____

13. Will this eighth grade child be your first child to attend college?
   a) _____ Yes
   b) _____ No

14. Will there be one or more siblings attending college at the same time this eighth grade child is in attendance?
    a) _____ Yes, one other sibling will be in attendance
    b) _____ Yes, two or more siblings will be in attendance
    c) _____ No, no other siblings will be in attendance

GO TO QUESTION 18.

IF YOU DO NOT EXPECT YOUR EIGHTH GRADER TO CONTINUE HIS/HER EDUCATION AFTER HIGH SCHOOL, PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

15. What do you expect your son or daughter to do after high school? (Check one he/she is most likely to do.)
    a) _____ Work in service occupation (waiter/waitress, dressmaker, etc.)
    b) _____ Work in office (receptionist, bank teller, etc.)
    c) _____ Agriculture (farm, etc.)
    d) _____ Work in a factory (machine operator, etc.)
    e) _____ Sales clerk
    f) _____ Work in unskilled labor occupation (truck driver, janitor, etc.)
    g) _____ Join Military
    h) _____ Homemaker (not work outside the home)
    i) _____ Other (travel, etc.) Please identify: _____

16. How certain are you that your eighth grade child will do the above?
    a) _____ Very certain
    b) _____ Fairly certain Why? (_____
    c) _____ Not certain (_____

17. Do your son's/daughter's expectations differ from yours?
    a) _____ Yes
    b) _____ No
    c) _____ Uncertain

PLEASE ANSWER ALL OF THE REMAINING QUESTIONS. (Remember, all information from this survey will be kept confidential.)

18. Your eighth grade son's/daughter's birth order is:
    a) _____ Only child
    b) _____ First
    c) _____ Second
    d) _____ Third
    e) _____ Fourth
    f) _____ Fifth
    g) _____ Sixth or later

19. What was your approximate total family income for 1985?
    a) _____ Below $10,000
    b) _____ $10,000 to $19,999
    c) _____ $20,000 to $29,999
    d) _____ $30,000 to $49,999
    e) _____ Over $50,000

(OVER)

20. Student's racial/ethnic background is:
    a) _____ Black
    b) _____ Hispanic
    c) _____ Asian American
    d) _____ American Indian
    e) _____ White
    f) _____ Other

21. What is the highest level of education attained by each parent? (Check (√) one in each column.)

	Father or Male Guardian	Mother or Female Guardian
a) Some high school	_____	_____
b) High school graduate or G.E.D.	_____	_____
c) Some college or vocational school or Associate degree	_____	_____
d) Bachelor's degree (4 year)	_____	_____
e) Graduate/Professional degree (law, medicine, etc.)	_____	_____

22. Based on responses from this survey, we will design new informational programs. Please check the following areas in which additional information would be helpful for planning your child's education beyond high school.

    a) _____ Admissions requirements (required classes, ACT scores, etc.)
    b) _____ Financial aid (what's available?)
    c) _____ What are the chances of receiving financial assistance?
    d) _____ Cost of going to school (how much will it cost?)
    e) _____ Career information
    f) _____ Graduation and job placement information
    g) _____ Other: _____

IN THE SPACE BELOW, PLEASE SHARE WITH US ANY CONCERNS YOU MIGHT HAVE ABOUT ACADEMIC AND/OR FINANCIAL PLANNING FOR COLLEGE FOR YOUR EIGHTH GRADER.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS STUDY. PLEASE RETURN THIS QUESTIONNAIRE IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE. NO STAMP IS NECESSARY.

ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARSHIP COMMISSION

525 W. Jefferson Suite 111 Springfield, Illinois 62702 217:782-6767

SCHOLARSHIPS GRANTS LOANS SECONDARY MARKET (IDAPP)

February, 1986

Dear Parent(s):

The Illinois State Scholarship Commission is gathering information on the plans families are making for their eighth graders after they graduate from high school. Some of you may hope to send your eighth grade son or daughter to college, while other parents may expect their children to get a job, enter military service, marry, or engage in some other activity.

Whatever your plans, we need your help to complete and return the enclosed survey.

This may seem a little early to be planning for what will happen in 1990, the year your child graduates from high school, but we have good reasons to learn about family plans for eighth graders. Last fall, the Illinois Board of Higher Education adopted admissions requirements for Illinois public universities and community colleges which require students to take as much as four years of preparatory subjects in high school. We are also interested in how families are planning to pay for the costs of going to college.

Even if you do not think your eighth grader is likely to attend college or vocational school, we want to know what you expect your child to do after high school. Please help us better assist families by completing and returning the enclosed survey. We will keep your reply confidential and report only summary data. Results from this survey will be used to prepare a program of informing parents at the junior high school level about the after-high school options for their children.

Please return the completed survey to us in the stamped envelope. Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours truly,

Thomas G. Mortenson
Director for Research

TGM/rd

ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARSHIP COMMISSION

525 W. Jefferson Suite 111 Springfield, Illinois 62702 217:782-6767

SCHOLARSHIPS GRANTS LOANS SECONDARY MARKET (IDAPP)

February, 1986

Dear Teacher:

Thanks for your help in distribution of this survey. The Illinois State Scholarship Commission is a state agency responsible for both administering student financial aid programs and informing the public about the availability of financial aid. We are surveying the parents of eighth grade students to determine the informational and financial needs of prospective aid applicants. Based on responses from this survey, we will design new informational programs.

1. Please distribute these envelopes to your eighth grade students and explain that each is to: G A P.

   1) Give it to their parent(s).

   2) Ask their parent(s) to fill it out.

   3) Put it in the mail back to us. (Stamped envelope is provided.)

2. Three days after the initial survey distribution, please hand out the follow-up postcard which is designed to increase response rates. In order to report valid data, response rates from this survey are extremely important. Please stress the importance of their parents filling out the survey and returning it to us, regardless of future college plans.

Thanks for your cooperation!

Sincerely,

Rhonda Dixon

Rhonda J. Dixon
Survey Coordinator

RJD/rd

ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARSHIP COMMISSION
525 W. Jefferson Suite 111 Springfield, Illinois 62702 217:782-6767
SCHOLARSHIPS GRANTS LOANS SECONDARY MARKET (IDAPP)

Dear Parent:

Last week you received a survey questionnaire via your eighth grader. It contained questions concerning your feelings about college costs and...

If you have already completed the questionnaire and returned it to us, we would be pleased to send you a preliminary report of the research findings when they become available in early June. Simply return the enclosed postcard.

If you have not yet had an opportunity to fill in the entire questionnaire, we would of course urge you to complete it as soon as possible and return it to us in the stamped envelope provided. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Thomas G. Mortenson, Director
Policy, Research & Analysis

TGM/bjn

APPENDIX B

Open-Ended Question

The last section of the survey allowed parents to share with us their concerns about academic and/or financial planning for college for their eighth graders. Although close to three hundred responses were written in this section, only major areas of concern and a few actual responses in each are listed below.

Concerns from Middle Income Families

"We hope that the cost of a college education will not be so high that our children will not be able to attend, even at the ages they are now 13 and 11 they have very high hopes and dreams for the future careers. We would like to have more financial aid available to those of us who are in the working class, and not so much to the poor and the wealthy students, at times it appears these students are forgotten."

"I am concerned with the federal governments' cutting the budget in the areas of student loans and grants. It is getting very difficult for middle class children to attend college. Is higher education only for the very rich or the very poor? Are we throwing away the talents of many of our youth?. I can't think of a better place for the government to invest its money than with the gifted youth of our country - our future."

"What is the need for foreign language in high school as a requirement for college entrance? How does a family of five with average income and average expenses but little savings hope to send their children to college with constant rising costs. Hasn't college become the higher education for the children with exceptionally high ACT scores or the children of the wealthy, not the average."

"I am concerned that aid for white middle class students does not become a thing of the past in order to provide full scholarships for minority students. I am also concerned about college education becoming so expensive that it eliminates all but wealthy young people and those on athletic scholarships."

"With costs going up yearly, we are worried about the financial burden that will go along with our son's college education. It seems that college is fast becoming a luxury for the 'rich' only."

"I find more and more parents discouraged because they do not qualify for financial aid. I feel many are not even trying because they assume they will be refused."

"More scholarship aid must be made available for students based on ability.
- Work study programs must be expanded to accommodate more students.
- Current student loan programs and financial assistance based on 'need' work against parents who save or work a second job. The application procedures all make liars out of applicants or at least tend to encourage 'creative' financial statements."

"I believe Ronald Reagan does not wish to educate the middle class, except perhaps as soldiers."

"There doesn't seem to be much encouragement/assistance for an average family. Unless you have a football star or are on welfare the only 'help' offered is a loan with a high rate of interest. Why can't assistance be offered to hard-working families as well as non-working families?"

"I am concerned that as a middle-income family my two children will not be eligible for a scholarship."

Single/Divorced Parents

"I am a divorced mother of three. Unfortunately, I receive child support only sporadically. I want my children to be the best they are able - and the only way to insure this (in life terms) is to get the best education available. It is very frustrating to see these costs so prohibitive. Without some form of assistance/scholarship - college will be beyond our grasp. Yet I know nothing about any programs available. More information would be welcome. Quality education should be affordable and available to all. Sounds corny - but a mind is a terrible thing to waste."

"As a single parent, my primary concern is the cost of higher education."

"My son has talked of college for a lot of years and has done exceptionally well. Since I am a single parent and not working at present, financial problems are a big concern. I want my son to get where he wants to go and find out how he can get financial assistance, so he can achieve this."

"I am a single parent with 4 children. My husband gives child support - but I don't know whether he will contribute or not. Will only my salary be counted when my children apply for financial aid?"

"I'm a divorced parent and solely share the responsibility of educating my son. A divorce decree did not in any way provide monies for my son's education for high school or college. My other four children, however, have become Nurses, Pharmacists, Business majors, and my fourth son is in his last year of Dental School. My fifth child (and last) will be starting college 1990. I hope he shares the same intense feeling of achieving in spite of the financial burdens involved as his brothers and sisters did."

"I am a single parent and very concerned about the cost of higher education. It is imperative that my sons go to college but I do not feel fully informed as to financial aid that is available. How is the ordinary parent to become more knowledgeable?"

"Being a single parent not receiving child support or any other assistance, I am concerned that I will not be able to assist my daughter financially with school. We will have to rely heavily on scholarships or grants. Much of what she will accomplish will have to be done on her own."

Costs

"My main concern is about the rising cost of higher education. What I feel is most needed is alot more information on the options my child has toward financial aid for these higher education institutions and what are her overall chances of receiving that help. I am also concerned about what is required of her for this assistance."

"We are very concerned about the financial costs of college. Since we have 2 children entering college in 1989 and 1990, we are very concerned about supporting two college students. We understand there are many scholarships and grants not being used and would like more information on where to apply for information."

"We are concerned about being financially able to keep our daughter in college. Our other two daughters were in college in the seventies and it was hard enough then. We were able to receive student loans and grants, plus student earnings on campus and off campus. Since then costs have increased tremendously. We would appreciate any help on financial planning that you can give and information on all financial aid available. Thank you."

"Our greatest concern is how we will pay for this education and if assistance in the form of loans and scholarships will be available. We are anxious that our income will be too high to qualify for assistance yet not high enough to afford what will be required."

"I'm afraid I'll be paying for my two girls for the rest of my life!!!!!"

"WE NEED HELP!!!! It's difficult to save for college when mother is at home caring for younger siblings."

"Just need to know how to go about applying for help and if we or she will qualify."

"Student may have to depend almost entirely on loans, since the parents' salary has no way kept up with inflation and is presently barely meeting bill payments and stretching for living expenses. Still, my income makes us a less likely candidate for financial help."

"We presently have one child attending the U of I. Fear financially once he completes his education and our second child enters higher education, our savings will be depleted before this child is able to attend."

"He aspires to receive an athletic Scholarship and barring unforseen injury or illness, should be able to reduce the cost of his eduation some in this manner. I wish we had started saving earlier, so we would not have to liquidate investments to support his educational endeavor."

"The major concern is the cost of going to any kind of school after high school. Even if we know what the approximate cost is this year, who can tell what it will be by 1990."

"Our major concern is cost, and how much money we should have available - also - scholarship information to help with expenses."

"I know he could do well in college and make something well of himself if we can just afford to send him on to school."

"Am concerned that aid will continue to be cut. Survey is a great idea!!"

"We will still be paying on a parent loan for one other child when this one starts college. One of our children graduated college in Sept 1985; the other will finish in Aug 1986. We have done nothing the last few years but pay for education for these children. Talk about finances - we have none left."

"My concern is the difficulty in determining what financial plans I have to make for all three of my children - I will have either single or double college expenses for nine years. I realize that I will need some other money (grants, loans, scholarships) to provide my children's educations. It is difficult to plan for an unknown amount of money. I have a feeling that no matter how much I manage to save for college - I'll still find the family being forced to live on jello for the duration of the total college years for our family."

<u>Comments Regarding the new Illinois Board of Higher Education's Admissions Requirements</u>

"I think it is too soon to decide at 13 what one wants to do in life. My son will need more education beyond high school, but he needs to take some High School courses to find his interest. The new requirements leaves no room for hands on classes."

"I believe the new requirements are too demanding and put too much responsibility on an eighth-grader for them to decide if they want to go to college or a vocational school."

"The academic standards are tight now. These people trying to raise the standards are trying to stop education for a lot of people."

"At this point, our college choice is not definite. We are in the dark as far as admission requirements are concerned. Even our high school administration was unwilling to give definite long term (1990) requirements."

"I fully support the new admission requirements, I feel it will force an earlier decision for the student on what he/she plans to do while in high school."

"The present academic requirements take all choice away from H.S. students. Certain vocational classes, where good basic information can be obtained have to be passed up. Education comes from the experiences a student has rather than taking a certain number of courses. Also, it is a little early to expect a freshman in H.S. to know career desires. The parent has to pick direction, and, as a result, can be blamed for unhappy career choices."

High School Preparation for College

"We aren't sure that we will be able to afford college for her. Not knowing how much to plan for, and even if we did know, maybe we don't have enough saved. Also, with changes in the educational system, we aren't sure she will be able to have all the requirements she needs for college."

"My main concern is that my children receive the proper educational background in high school to prepare for success in college and to achieve at a level to qualify for financial scholarship aid."

"It seems impossible to plan for such a large expense. Information of different approaches would be interesting. I am also concerned with the restricted selection of high school courses due to school hours. If a student is college bound in scientific field, there is no time at school to take other than "solid" courses. (I consider foreign language a solid). I wish the school day would be lengthened."

"We do not like the five-hour day in our school district as it does not allow the students to carry enough extra classes."

"The area high school offers only 5 class periods per day. Well-rounded college prep is virtually impossible in this system. Our high school I believe is unique in this structuring of classes. I am extremely concerned it will impair my child's adequate preparation for college."

"Make sure he has all the required courses needed for college admissions."

"Very concerned with short days and its effect on academic levels. Concerned that grading scale does not reflect skill level attained - too easy."

Go to the Military for Education

"I hope my son joins the National Guard, so he can get a college education paid for. His father died last year, and there's no way I could pay for his college education."

"Try to get into R.O.T.C. to pay for college."

"I plan to have my son work to enter some military program that will aid in his college education. These programs I haven't looked into yet. I do have stock money saved that will aid in his education. All informational programs listed in question 22 of this questionnaire would be beneficial to me."

"At age 18, with so many career choices, we doubt if our son will really know for sure what he wants, we encourage his joining of the military service because it will give him 3 or 4 years in which he can 'find himself' and see other parts of our civilization and culture. Southern Illinois is somewhat a depressed area with small towns being the majority. We were both raised small town people though we both have been residents of large cities. We want our children to experience the difference, become mature, productive, efficient, self-reliable citizens of wherever they choose to live. We encourage attending college after military service or choosing the military as a career and retiring before 40 years of age with a pension(!), and then working at his choice of job."

General: Concerns, Suggestions, Ideas

"I would like to know how my child could get enrolled in the college of her choice."

"I'm afraid we teach our children how to further their education better then we teach them how to live i.e. balance a check book, how to do taxes, what kind of insurance are necessary, what action must be taken when a death occurs in a family. More than higher education these are necessary for an individual to be a successful and confident citizen. I've seen too many people with degree's who don't know the first thing about day to day living. I'm fearful of an entire generation becoming so specialized in a particular field they find it difficult to function outside that field."

"If there is any way possible I would like to know about the financial planning and aid for my son. Thank you."

"Will you please help my 8th grader to go to college and my 10th grader!"

"I didn't know about a lot of financial aid that is available, can you send me information about the different aids. Thank you."

"We don't know where her particular interest abilities are at this time. We will need some form of financial assistance and are not aware of what is available."

"Since this is our first child who wants to attend college, any information on financial planning would be helpful to us. Our son is not too familiar with the different colleges and is unsure what career he is interested in. By the time he graduates, we will be close to retirement so financial help would be helpful to us. He is very sports-minded and is interested in something along those lines."

"My husband is laid-off regularly and we will have two in college. We defintely will need aid and I need to know how to apply and when."

"Information about different colleges -"

"We need to know college specializing in the Medical Field our daughter is interested in. She wants to work in Lab or Therapy. We have heard Springfield has a program - but have not had a chance to inquire yet. Any information you can give us will be greatly appreciated. Thank you."

"NO, and I'm disappointed that the schools' have no plan for "interest" testing 9th graders to help them "discover" their interest to help focus their career planning (or more like "career imagining".)"

"This questionnaire really makes one realize - much money is needed to send your child to college."

"This is a whole new area for us to learn about. This survey is valuable to me in that it reminds me it is time to think about all of this."

"8th grade is a very difficult time to make these decisions. Most children at this age are very unsure of their future."

"My child seems sincere about being a veterinarian. I have instilled in her that without the high academic rating college will probably be out of the question, because of lack of financial aid. If it is possible I would like to have all the information I listed above. It would give us an idea if it is feasible to try for this."

"We are looking toward the future. Right now we are financialy unable to send him to college. Being what the farming problems are now."

"If our son would want to attend college for further training we would have to apply for some financial help being his father is on VA disability and isn't physically able to work. Thank you."

"1) Need for resource materials, persons to talk to and guidance regarding colleges that best fit the aspirations and needs of our child. 2) Information regarding financial planning, sources of financial aid, and procedures to obtain financial aid."

"I'd like a way of determining the academic strenghs of various institutions, not just the cost of tuition."

"At this point, we have no savings account and certainly no way of sending our children to college. I would love for them to go, as they are very intelligent and make good grades. At this point, they are not thinking about college, but do want to go. I hope there will be some way to get help for them in the future."

"Our main concern is to give the best education to our children and they could only have it if they go to college. I always tell them that this is the only thing we could give them (education) as we don't have any wealth or properties to offer. It's for them to choose their own course in college, and we parents would always be there to help them out till they're through."

"I feel the biggest concern is financial, and also what kind of grades are required to even apply for any kind of help."

"I would like to get direct feedback on the questions I have asked in #22. Our school system does not seem to get this direct feedback to us. Thanks"

"Any information at all would be helpful."

"Perhaps in social studies or home economics in eighth grade year, these children could arbitrarily choose a college and research its entrance requirements before the children are asked to fill out their 4-year high school plan. It might make a difference in their course choices."

"I very much appreciate the effort made by your organization in developing this questionnaire. If you can provide us with information I've identified in Q.#22 we should be able to obtain answers to most of our questions/concerns related to academic and/or financial planning. Thanks again for your efforts to better prepare us as parents!"

"I would like to see accelerated/college credit classes offered to advanced students. This would not only provide an opportunity to enter the college of choice but also reduce the cost by a semester or two."

"I would like for both my children to attend college. My daughter will start in 1987. I have no idea how it will be paid for. I expect they will both have to work to help out. I'm hoping I can get some kind of assistance for them. I think it is very important that plans for college are made in eighth grade so the student will be taking the proper courses in high school."

"I would be interested in any information your commission could make available to me in order to help my child reach her full potential."

"We have a son, freshman, and daughter, eighth grade. Both are honor roll students, but have not decided about college or vocations. Thank you."

"There is still alot of 'kid' in my daughter. All she says is I don't know. I don't think she has even thought about what she will be doing 4 years from now. I know my other kids didn't even consider college because we didn't have enough money."

APPENDIX C

As part of this research, a separate telephone survey was conducted of each of the fifty states plus Washington D.C. A representative from each of these states was obtained from the 1986 National Association of State Scholarship and Grant Programs Directory. This representative was contacted and asked three questions concerning academic and financial planning for college by parents of junior high school students. The three questions were:

1. Has (state) conducted any specific research in this area?

2. Has (state) produced any brochures, pamphlets, etc., targeted at these students and/or their parents?

3. Has (state) developed any informational programs directed at these students and/or their parents?

It was found that only four states had conducted any type of research regarding this topic. The four states were Illinois, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Virginia. However, twenty-seven states have produced or are in the process of producing some type of brochure or pamphlet targeted at junior high-school students and/or their parents. Twenty-three states have begun developing or have developed informational programs targeted at one or both groups. Results from this survey can be found in TABLE 10 on the following page.

Each state which had produced some type of brochure targeted at junior high school students and/or their parents has sent the Illinois State Scholarship Commission a copy. Thus, ISSC now has a library in its Springfield office containing the various state brochures targeted at this clientele.

TABLE 10
ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARSHIP COMMISSION
**STATE SURVEY-JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS-RESEARCH ON FAMILY ACADEMIC AND FINANCIAL PLANNING

States	Conducted Research	Produced Brochures	Developed Programs	Will Send Materials	Other Agy Involved	Comments
	YES/NO	YES/NO/IP*	YES/NO/IP*	YES/NO		
1. Alabama	No	No	No			
2. Alaska	No	No	No			
3. Arizona	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Bd of Reg.	
4. Arkansas	No	Yes	Yes	Yes		-grant used to start this up-have a video tape
5. California	No	Yes	Yes	Yes		-matching funds 1-1 by legis. and colleges
6. Colorado	No	IP	IP			-banks-working on brochures--family academic planning
7. Conneticut	No	No	No			
8. Delaware	No	No	No			
9. D.C.	No	No	No			
10. Florida	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cnty only	-programs at county level only-no state effort
11. Georgia	No	IP	IP	Yes		-have only discussed a group of advisors- jr&sr materials sent
12. Hawaii	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	St Dpt Ed	-booklet to be used in 'guidance class' then home to parents
13. Idaho	No	Yes	IP	Yes		-admission standard posters-no state financial assistance
14. Illinois	Yes	No	No			
15. Indiana	No	No	No			-task force has been named-embryonic stage

**State Source taken from 1986 NASSGP Directory
*IP=In Process

States	Conducted Research	Produced Brochures	Developed Programs	Will Send Materials	Other Agy Involved	Comments
	YES/NO	YES/NO/IP*	YES/NO/IP*	YES/NO		
16. Iowa	No	IP	IP	Yes		-In conjunction with ACT Advisory Council
17. Kansas	No	No	No			
18. Kentucky	No	No	No			
19. Louisiana	No	No	No			
20. Maine	No	No	No			
21. Maryland	No	IP	IP		Bd High.Ed	-state-wide plan recommending 9th get info coll entry curric.
22. Massachusetts	No	Yes	No	Yes		
23. Michigan	No	IP	IP	Yes		-legis approp for 9th grades- draft being field tested
24. Minnesota	No	Yes	Yes	Yes		-also a scholarship enrichment program-8th grds- based on need
25. Mississippi	No	No	No			
26. Missouri	No	IP	IP	Yes	El&Sec Dpt	
27. Montana	No	No	No			
28. Nebraska	No	No	No			
29. Nevada	No	No	No			
30. New Hampshire	No	No	No			
31. New Jersey	No	No	No			
32. New Mexico	No	No	No			
33. New York	No	IP	IP	Yes		-working w/ unions,city council, comm.act.org-mostly financial Early Awareness Programs

*IP=In Process

States	Conducted Research	Produced Brochures	Developed Programs	Will Send Materials	Other Agy Involved	Comments
	YES/NO	YES/NO/IP*	YES/NO/IP*	YES/NO		
34. North Carolina	No	No	No	Yes		-residual bene. from mtg target at minority youth-will send
35. North Dakota	No	Yes	Yes	Yes		-academic planning only
36. Ohio	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	St Bd Ed	-joint effort-academic prep-math test-compar entry req
37. Oklahoma	No	No	No			
38. Oregon	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Ore.Off of Schl Relat	-early fin.plan. next yrs approp MI families - maternity wards
39. Pennsylvania	Yes	No	No	Yes		
40. Rhode Island	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		-nothing formal-just considering
41. South Carolina	No	No	No			-forming ad-hoc comm-just getting started
42. South Dakota	No	No	No			
43. Tennessee	No	No	No			
44. Texas	No	Yes	No	Yes		
45. Utah	No	Yes	No	Yes		-financial planning-targeted at 2nd & 3rd graders' families
46. Vermont	No	Yes	Yes	Yes		-outreach programs at middle schools
47. Virginia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Dpt of Ed	-parent work-shops&series of pub. 5th one to be dissem at hospitals
48. Washington	No	Yes	IP	Yes	Wash Super of Pub Inst	-Wash.GSL Assoc Program-Counc. P.Sec.Ed is waiting for results
49. West Virginia	No	Yes	Yes	Yes		-pamphlet,thought-provoking exercises to stimulate thinking
50. Wisconsin	No	Yes	No	Yes	Univ Wisc System	
51. Wyoming	No	Yes	Yes	Yes		-state instit.all open admiss. suggest classes should have
TOTALS YES -	4 - 8%	20 - 39%	14 - 27%	27		
NO -	47 - 92%	24 - 47%	28 - 55%	-		
IP -	- -	7 - 14%	9 - 18%	-		

*IP=In Process